

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 140968
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-11 /159 R

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APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
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L/UNA: A KRECZKO
IO/UNP:D MACUK
IO/UNP: T NILES
NSE: R PUTNAM (INFO)
ACDA/IR: A TURRENTINE (SUBS)
IO:GBH L AN

-----064756 030559Z /23

P R 030214Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140968

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UNGA, UK

SUBJECT: UNSSOD: UK PROPOSAL ON PEACEKEEPING AND
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

REF: USUN 2198

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 140968

1. DEPARTMENT HAS SEVERAL OBJECTIONS TO THE UK PROPOSAL
CONTAINED IN REFTEL. MOST FUNDAMENTALLY, WE BELIEVE THE
PROPOSAL IS ENTIRELY TOO VAGUE; FAR FROM STRENGTHENING THE
UN'S ROLE IN PEACEKEEPING AND PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF DIS-
PUTES, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD MOST LIKELY BE DETRIMENTAL TO
ATTEMPTS AT UN REFORM.

2. IN OUR VIEW THE SUREST WAY TO BURY PRACTICAL PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE SECURITY COUNCIL PROCEDURES AND UN PEACEKEEPING METHODS IS TO CALL FOR A UN STUDY. THE US AND UK HAVE BOTH STUDIED THESE SUBJECTS IN DEPTH, AND GENERALLY AGREE ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. AS USUN KNOWS, UNDERSECRETARY LUARD RECENTLY SENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES (WITH A COPY TO AMB. RICHARD FOR AMB. YOUNG) DETAILED AND VERY USEFUL COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS ON UN REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING. WE ARE NOW PREPARING A REPLY TO LUARD; WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PROCESS OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE UK AND OTHER ALLIES AND PERMANENT MEMBERS

OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS THE BEST WAY TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE AND GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE REFORMS.

3. THE UK OBSERVATIONS ON THE US REPORT, APPENDED TO LUARD'S LETTER, STATE THAT "THE STUDY SUGGESTED IN THE WESTERN DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (PUT FORWARD BY THE UK AND CO-SPONSORED (SIC) BY THE US) ON STRENGTHENING THE UN CAPACITY IN PEACEKEEPING AND THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES WILL FOCUS INTER ALIA ON THE PROBLEMS TO WHICH THE US PAPER DRAWS ATTENTION." WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THE BRITISH GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE US CO-SPONSORED EITHER THE DRAFT PROGRAM OR THE PROPOSED STUDY, BUT THE IMPRESSION IS NOT ACCURATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 140968

4. IT STRIKES US THAT ONE ALTERNATIVE TO THE UK PROPOSAL MIGHT BE TO DROP THE CALL FOR A STUDY AND PROPOSE INSTEAD THAT A PARAGRAPH BE INCLUDED IN THE SSOD PROGRAM OF ACTION CALLING FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE USE OF FORCE, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF CRISIS ANTICIPATION, PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, AND PEACEKEEPING. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR THE BRITISH TO ASK BARTON GROUP MEMBERS TO PROVIDE CONSIDERED COMMENTS, BOTH ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE UK PROPOSALS AND ON HOW TO PROCEED TO PUT THEM INTO EFFECT.

5. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON ABOVE IN EXPLAINING TO UK DEL WHY WE CANNOT CO-SPONSOR UK PROPOSAL, DESPITE FACT THAT WE ARE VERY MUCH IN AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH OBJECTIVES. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT WE WILL BE RESPONDING SOON TO MR. LUARD'S MOST THOUGHTFUL LETTER AND HOPE TO CONTINUE A SERIOUS DIALOGUE WITH BRITISH AND OTHER ALLIES ON BEST WAYS TO IMPROVE UN PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES. (NOTE: WE LEAVE IT TO YOU TO MAKE THESE POINTS AS TACTFULLY AS POSSIBLE.)

6. MAY WE HAVE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT
STEPS IN CONSULTATIONS REGARDING US PROPOSALS FOR UN
REFORM, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATING TO PEACEKEEPING
PREPAREDNESS AND MORE ROUTINE SC CONSIDERATION OF
POTENTIAL CONFLICT SITUATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE140968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPLORENZ/LSHEA:SJR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-0697
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780699/aaaadhau.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6543be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 2198
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2499656
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNSSOD: UK PROPOSAL ON PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES
TAGS: PARM, UK, UNGA, SSOD
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6543be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014